

CONFIDENTIAL

15 JUN 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Western Europe Division

**SUBJECT : Brig. Antony Head's Study of
Communism and Possible Visit
to the United States**

Joseph Alsop's Washington Post column of 12 June is attached. Joseph reports Brig. Antony Head, Britain's former Minister of Defense, is the author of a study on Communist methods in the struggle for the uncommitted world. Brig. Head's study concerns itself at least in part with Communist training methods and schools. According to Alsop, Head has addressed the House of Commons and may be coming to the United States to give similar presentations here. OTR would be most appreciative if you would:

a. Obtain a copy of Brig. Head's study for our evaluation and possible use in OTR-conducted training.

SIGNED

MATTHEW BAIRD
Director of Training

Attachment:
Newspaper clipping

Distribution:

Orig. & 1 - Addressee
1 - DD/S
1 - DTR
2 - PPS

Document No. 003

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☒ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA MEMO 770427

Date: 7 JAN 78 By:

OTR/PPS

(12 June 59)

CONFIDENTIAL

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

On the Importance of Being Earnest

LONDON — Imagine the American foreign service being so organized that every key officer in every legation and consulate in all the Arab lands, for instance, could speak fair Arabic. (In practice, almost none of them, either in the Arab lands or in any other uncommitted country, for that matter, can rise much higher than ordering a meal in a restaurant.)



Alsop

Imagine the United States mobilizing for the struggle for the world to the point where we could provide huge, well-equipped, camp-universities to give special training for our potential friends in the uncommitted countries. (In practice, the American fellowship programs for overseas students and leading foreign personalities are not only small in scale; they are also constantly menaced with further cuts by both Congress and the Bureau of the Budget.)

Imagine a foreign aid program so tough-minded yet so flexible that its methods would be tailored to each special situation, serving our interests in all cases without regard to political prejudice, paper work rules, or dogood poppycock. (In this case, the contrast between imagination and practice is really too painful to dwell on.)

For us in the United States, such things really seem unimaginable. But they are very far indeed from being unimaginable on the Communist side of the line that divides the world. At three situations, above described and in fact drawn from an eye-opening study of Communist methods in the struggle for the uncommitted coun-

tries by Britain's former Minister of Defense, Brig. Anthony Head.

IT IS tempting to devote a good many thousand words to the material that Brig. Head has now accumulated. One known training school for African Communists, for example, provides facilities in Czechoslovakia for 3000 men and women drawn from all over Africa. Another training school for Southeast Asian Communists, situated in Hunan province in China, has the incredible but well authenticated total of 30,000 students drawn from Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaya, Burma, Laos, and Viet-Nam.

Again, the program is worked out in such elaborate detail that pro-Communist versions of the most obscure tribal myths are being peddled in Africa in the original tribal dialects. Yet the broad principles have been established with such ruthless clarity that penetrable countries are divided into three classes: Class I, where cooperation "with the bourgeois" is desirable, as in Egypt until recently; Class II, where more open support for the Communists is permissible, as in Iraq at present; and Class III, where all support is concentrated behind the local Communists, as in Viet-Nam before the truce there.

But the temptation to tell Brig. Head's remarkable story in still greater detail must be resisted. There are reasons to hope that this exceptionally intelligent and original-minded Englishman will shortly be telling his own story in the United States, as he has already told it in the House of Commons. As it is very much his story, composed of data which he has gathered almost single-handed, the job of telling it in full must be left to him.

The foregoing facts are borrowed from Head, simply because they are the best available proof of the importance of being reasonably earnest about the vast struggle for the world. As this reporter packs for the return journey to Washington, the thing that sticks in his craw like a poisoned chicken bone is the danger of our own lack of earnestness.

NIKITA Khrushchev may smile and smile, between gestures with his H-bombs. Andrei Gromyko may force himself to be relatively polite. But all the while, these men of the Kremlin and their Communist collaborators in other countries are in deadly earnest, endlessly searching for weak points in the armor of the West, endlessly organizing to exploit the West's weaknesses whenever and wherever these appear. Khrushchev and Gromyko and the rest of them are not bored with the Geneva conference, for example, and they are not complacent about the outcome, either. They are just as intensely interested, they are just as lacking in complacency, as hungry, hovering hawks.

Of course, Secretary of State Christian A. Herter and his staff are not bored, either. On the contrary, their vigilance and stoutness at Geneva have been altogether admirable. But judging by the reports from home, the mood in Washington is flatulently complacent; and so it seems to be in most of the western capitals. Yet if the West is beaten, at Berlin, and if the Communists win the uncommitted countries, and if other quite imaginable defeats are inflicted on us, lack of earnestness will be the chief cause.

(Copyright, 1959, New York Herald Tribune, Inc.)